

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

**Please add the following paragraph as the abstract in the currently filed specification:**

A method of linking a first molecule  $M^1-NH_2$  with a second molecule  $M^2-OH$  comprising reaction of a compound of the formula (I):  $M^1-NH-CO-A-CO-SR^1$  wherein  $M^1$  is the residue of a molecule bearing an amino group, A is an alkylene or arylene group,  $R^1$  is alkyl or aryl, with a compound of formula (II),  $M^2$  is the residue of a molecule bearing a hydroxy group wherein B is a linker, D is  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene group or  $C_{3-12}$  arylene group,  $R^2$  is hydrogen or a thiol protecting group. In addition, this invention relates to conjugate products of the coupling reaction, reagents for modifying  $M^1-NH_2$  and  $M^2-OH$ , and kits comprising these reagents.

